

## ***THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY***

**April 2013 – Week 5**

**Air Date: April 28 – May 4 (Sunday – Saturday)**



### **TITLE: CAMELS COME TO TEXAS**

APRIL 1856 AND AFRICAN SHIPS OF THE DESERT ARRIVE IN TEXAS.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

APRIL 29, 1856. INDIANOLA. THIRTY-TWO NORTH AFRICAN CAMELS ARE BROUGHT ASHORE AS PART OF A U.S. ARMY EXPERIMENT.

SECRETARY OF THE ARMY AND FUTURE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFEDERACY JEFFERSON DAVIS URGED CONGRESS TO BUY THE CAMELS FOR USE IN PURSUING INDIANS IN THE WEST TEXAS DESERT.

THE CAMELS ABILITY TO CARRY LARGE BURDENS WITH LITTLE WATER PROVED USEFUL, BUT THEIR ATTITUDE AND THEIR SMELL DID NOT.

BY 1866 THE EXPERIMENT WAS OVER AND THE CAMELS WERE SOLD AT AUCTION.

CAMELS CAME TO TEXAS 157 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

LEARN MORE AT SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG OR CALL 800-998-4GLO.

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Chris Emmett and Odie B. Faulk, "CAMELS," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/quc01>), accessed April 18, 2013. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

"U.S. Camel Corps," *Wikipedia* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S.\\_Camel\\_Corps](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Camel_Corps)), accessed April 18, 2013.

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